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THE
ORCHID MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN. **ALBUM,**

COMPRISING
COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS
OF
NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL
ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY
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THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.

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CYPRIPEDIUM CONCOLOR.

[PLATE 302.]

Native of Moulmein.

Terrestrial. Acaulescent. *Leaves* distichous, lying nearly flat, oblong-obtuse, channelled, from four to six inches in length, ground colour on the upper side, deep green, beautifully tessellated with very pale green; on the under side the colour is an uniform reddish purple. *Peduncle (scape)* somewhat short, reddish purple, clothed with short black hairs, and furnished just below the ovary with a large acuminate hairy bract. *Flowers* usually in pairs, two inches or more in diameter, soft primrose-yellow, speckled and dotted with crimson-purple; *dorsal sepal* ovate or sub-rotund; *lateral sepals* connate, ovate; *petals* deflexed, oblong obtuse, and, as well as the sepals, fringed at the edges with fine black hairs; *lip* saccate, somewhat short and conical, unguiculate, creamy yellow, freckled with crimson-purple dots. *Staminode* subcordate, tapering to a small stiff point, yellow speckled with minute crimson-purple dots.

CYPRIPEDIUM CONCOLOR, *Parish, MSS.*; *Bateman*, in *Botanical Magazine*, t. 5513; *Id. Second Century of Orchidaceous Plants*, t. 153; *L'Illustration Horticole*, t. 444; *Flore des Serres*, t. 2321; *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1865, p. 626, with figure; *Id.*, N.S. xix., p. 19, fig. 3; *Florist and Pomologist*, 1870, p. 149, with figure; *Williams, Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., p. 242, with figure.

This well-known *Cypripedium* belongs to the dwarf section of the genus, and a few years ago was almost the only representative of its class in our collections. But during the last few years many others have been introduced to this country by the numerous collectors who are employed to search specially for orchidaceous plants. Amongst the beautiful species of this particular section is the richly spotted *C. Godefroyæ*, which has already been figured in the *Orchid Album*, at plate 171. Previous to this introduction, however, *C. niveum*, which is also a charming species, was introduced to our gardens, and subsequently *C. concolor Regnieri* and others. We have some hybrids, crosses with *C. concolor*, *C. niveum*, and other species, which have brought about some beautiful forms; but all the hybrids obtained from this section appear to be slow growers. There is much work being done in this way, and it will continue, as *Cypripediums* are easily crossed, and when raised from seed they are not long in attaining a flowering state, which will well repay the hybridiser if care is bestowed in selection, so as to produce distinct and handsome forms. Our artist took his drawing of *C. concolor* from a very prettily-grown plant in the collection of G. Bowles, Esq., 4, Hall Road, St. John's Wood, kindly communicated to us by Mr. Vass, the gardener.

Cypripedium concolor is distinct and beautiful in foliage as well as in flower; it belongs to the stemless section, of which our readers can form a good idea from the

plate before them. It is a native of Burmah, being found growing wild upon limestone rocks in the neighbourhood of Moulmein at about 200 to 250 feet elevation. The leaves are prettily variegated on the upper surface, reddish beneath; the scape is short, pubescent, purple, and often produces but a single flower; occasionally, however, two are developed. The flowers, which are produced very freely, are of a delicate pale yellow, and finely speckled with crimson-purple spots. There are several varieties, some of which are more spotted than others. The form before us is one of the best that has come under our notice. It generally blooms during the autumn months.

We recommend this *Cypripedium* to be potted in a compost of fibrous peat from which the fine part has been shaken away, and some broken pieces of limestone mixed with it, adding also some small lumps of charcoal; this mixture will form a good drainage. The plant delights to grow elevated two or three inches above the pot-rim, which is a natural position for it, as it is found in its natural habitat growing on the rocks; the roots will then work down amongst the material. It requires a good supply of water at the roots—always being kept moist, and if the directions here given are carried out there will be little difficulty in growing this plant to perfection. We find it succeeds well in the East India house with a moist heat; during summer we syringe the foliage every morning (most *Cypripediums* seem to delight in this). Give it plenty of light, but it should be shaded from the burning sun, and grown a short distance from the glass—about two feet, if possible.

This plant is propagated by division as soon as the growth is completed, care being taken that the shoots should not be detached until they have formed some roots. The divided portions should be placed in small pots, with the same material as recommended above; after potting, place them in a shady position until they become established.
